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Posted on Wed, Feb. 23, 2005

Corzine urges Bush to denounce group for attacking AARP over Social Security

DONNA DE LA CRUZ
Associated Press

WASHINGTON - New Jersey Sen. Jon Corzine called on President Bush on Wednesday to denounce the tactics of a group attacking AARP over its opposition to the president's Social Security plan.

In a letter, Corzine mentioned an Internet ad run briefly on Monday by the advocacy group USA Next showing two pictures, one of a U.S. soldier with an "X" superimposed on it and the other showing two men kissing each other with a check mark over the image. The caption read: "The real AARP agenda."

Corzine, a Democrat, called the ad "incendiary" for implying that AARP does not support U.S. ser favor of same-sex marriage. The group has not taken a position on same-sex marriage.

"The motive for USA Next's irresponsible use of such hot button issues is not difficult to decipher attack the message, attack the messenger - no matter how dishonest and off base those attacks Corzine wrote.

Corzine likened USA Next's tactics to that of the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, which ran ads dur presidential campaign questioning Democratic Sen. John Kerry's Vietnam War record.

"I urge you, in no uncertain terms, to repudiate USA Next and these tactics and to call for a civil d critical crossroads for Social Security," Corzine said.

USA Next, based in Fairfax, Va., calls itself a national grass roots organization "dedicated to uniti generations for America's future," and says it is the "free market alternative to groups like AARP v make American workers and families more dependent on government bureaucracies."

"I thought the redness, bumps, and genital irritation were from shaving. But now I'm not so sure."

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Charlie Jarvis, USA Next's chief executive, did not immediately respond to a telephone call for co who worked for President Reagan and also for the first President Bush, told The New York Times editions that his group plans on showing that AARP is "out of touch with a large number of their r

Last month, the AARP released a nationwide poll indicating deep public skepticism about Bush's workers under age 55 divert part of their payroll taxes into private funds that could be invested in mutual funds.

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